

17. (new) The method as recited in claim 12 wherein the second segment has a predefined length and is positioned at a beginning of the word sequence.

18. (new) The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the applying the second recognition procedure includes:

recognizing a word triplet, the word triplet including three second words of the plurality of second words; and

representing the word triplet as a pseudoword doublet, the pseudoword doublet including a second and a third pseudoword, the second pseudoword overlapping with the third pseudoword and each of the second and third pseudowords including two of the three second words of the word triplet.

19. (new) The method as recited in claim 12 wherein a change from the second recognition procedure to the first recognition procedure is performed based on a respective word detection or phrase detection.

20. (new) The method as recited in claim 19 wherein the second recognition procedure is used as standard.

#### REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels without prejudice original claims 1-10 and the substitute claims 1-6 annexed to the International Preliminary Examination Report in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE98/03536 (a translation of which is submitted herewith), and adds new claims 11-20. The new claims do not add new matter to the application but do conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules.

The amendments to the specification, drawings, and abstract are also to conform the specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification, drawings, and abstract also do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT application includes a Search Report, a copy of which is also submitted herewith.

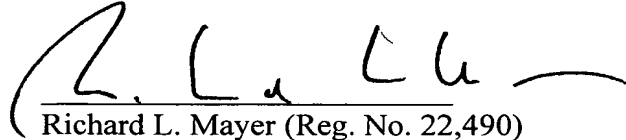
Conclusion

Consideration of the present application as amended is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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